

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LUANDA 00488 300926Z

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FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3483

S E C R E T LUANDA 0488

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PO AO

SUBJECT: UNITA REQUEST FOR U.S. SUPPORT

1. I HAVE TALKED WITH UNITA REPRESENTATIVE FERNANDES VIEIRA SEVERAL TIME SINCE HIS RETURN TO ANGOLA. THE FIRST OCCASION WAS ON MARCH 24, PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF REFTEL, WHEN VIEIRA REPEATED HIS STORY WITHOUT ANY MAJOR DISCREPANCIES, BUT ADDED ONE ITEM: 3,000 KALASHNIKOV'S THAT WILL COST 600,000 DOLLARS PLACED IN LUSAKA. VIEIRA SAID HE DID NOT MENTION THEM TO POST BECAUSE OF THE LATTER'S SENSITIVITY ABOUT THE USE OF FORCE. AS FOR THE AIRPLANE, VIEIRA SAID IT CANNOT BE DELIVERED UNTIL AUGUST, TOO LATE TO BE OF MUCH USE. AS AN ALTERNATIVE, HE IS THINKING OF A SMALLER PLANE THAT IS AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY IN SOUTH AFRICA FOR 6,000 CONTOS (240,000 DOLLARS). THE ONE MILLION DOLLARS HE MENTIONED TO POST WOULD HAVE TAKEN UNITA THROUGH MID APRIL.

2. IN MY LATEST MEETING WITH VIEIRA, ON APRIL 13, HE SAID HE HAD BRIEFED DR SAVIMBI, PRESIDENT OF UNITA A FEW DAYS EARLIER ON HIS TRIP TO CANADA AND CONVERSATION WITH POST. SAVIMBI TOLD HIM THAT THE CIA AND DR KISSINGER SUPPORT THE FNLA AND THERE IS PRESSURE ON SOUTH AFRICA FROM ELEMENTS IN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT FNLA. VIEIRA TOLD ME HE HIMSELF HAS HEARD OF A MEETING IN LIBREVILLE BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICIALS AND FNLA. VIEIRA SAID SAVIMBI WOULD BE BACK IN ANGOLA SOON AND HE WANTED TO BE ABLE TO TELL SAVIMBI THE U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARD THE REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE. I TOLD VIEIRA NOT TO LOOK FOR A YES OR A NO.

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3. I AM CONVINCED VIEIRA IS UNRELIABLE TO CONDUCT THE TYPE OF OPERATION HE HAS DESCRIBED TO POST. IF WE DID DECIDE TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL HELP TO UNITA, VIEIRA IS NOT THE CHANNEL WE WOULD WANT TO USE. HE DEFINITELY DOES HAVE SAVIMBI'S BACKING TO SEEK ASSISTANCE, BUT I BELIEVE THAT SAVIMBI HAS STUDIOUSLY AVOIDED TELLING VIEIRA TO COME TO US. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS I HAVE TRIED TO GET OUT OF VIEIRA JUST HOW SAVIMBI STANDS ON THIS QUESTION AND I AM SATISFIED SAVIMBI DOESN'T COMPLETELY TRUST VIEIRA, BECAUSE HE HAS NEVER TOLD HIM TO OBTAIN MONEY FROM THE U.S. WHAT WE HAVE, THEN, IS VIEIRA WITH GENERAL AUTHORIZATION FROM SAVIMBI TO RAISE FUNDS, BUT WITH NO INSTRUCTIONS TO DO SO. VIEIRA HAS CONVERTED THIS INTO A PERSONAL CRUSADE WHICH, IF SUCCESSFUL, WOULD INGRATIATE HIM WITH SAVIMBI, WHO WOULD BE INDEBTED TO HIM FOR MANY AND LARGE FAVORS IN THE FUTURE.

4. IF WE WERE TO PROVIDE FUNDS TO UNITA AT THE URGING OF VIEIRA OR THROUGH VIEIRA, WE WOULD LEAVE OURSELVES OPEN TO VERY PROMPT UNCOVERING. THIS IS SO BECAUSE VIEIRA IS A MAN WHO NEEDS TO LET PEOPLE KNOW HOW IMPORTANT HE IS. HE ALSO LIKES PEOPLE TO KNOW HE IS INVOLVED IN CONSPIRACIES. NOT THAT HE IS NOT DISCREET, HE IS, UP TO A POINT, BUT HE TELEGRAPHHS TO THOSE AROUND HIM THAT HE IS UP TO SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT. I INVITED HIM ONCE TO LUNCH WITH SEVERAL OTHER PEOPLE AT A DOWNTOWN RESTAURANT. A MESSENGER ARRIVED WITH A TELEGRAM. VIEIRA OPENED IT, READ IT AND ANNOUNCED TO THE GROUP THAT IT WAS A MESSAGE FROM HIS GOOD FRIEND DR SAVIMBI, WHO WANTED HIM TO PLACE AN ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE RADIO. HE WENT TO THE TELEPHONE, GAVE THE ORDERS AND CAME BACK TO SAY ONCE AGAIN THAT HE HAD TAKEN CARE OF SOME BUSINESS FOR HIS GOOD FRIEND DR SAVIMBI. THE FACT THAT HE WAS BAGGED FOR "ECONOMIC SABOTAGE" DURING THE REGIME OF ADMIRAL ROSA COUTINHO INDICATES THAT WHATEVER HE WAS INVOLVED IN HE MADE SO MANY WAVES THAT SUSPICION FELL ON HIM. IF VIEIRA WERE TO BE INSTRUMENTAL IN GETTING MONEY FROM US HE WOULD SPREAD THE WORD OF HIS COUP AMONG HIS FRIENDS.

5. I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY ON APRIL 29 TO TALK TO SAVIMBI AND I SHALL REPORT THAT CONVERSATION IN A SEPARATE MESSAGE.
KILLORAN

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NNN

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